

A LEISURE HOUR'S READING

WOODMAN, FELL THAT TREE.

Woodman fell that tree,
Spars not a single bough;
In youth it largesp me;
And I'll get even now.
"Twas my sign'd father's hand
That made it so hot;
And though you think it grand,
Woodman spares it not.
The old familiar tree,
Whose branches were cut down
And spread all over me—
Woodman, he's here!
Let him not strike me twice!
Out out its earth bound;—
Oh, stash that o'er my head.
That filled my soul with sighs
When I was idle boy.
Hokey-cokey played,
In all my gadding joy.
With Tom's two sisters strayed,
My mother caught me here;
My father pressed his hand—
Forgive this foolish year.
But don't let that oak stand.
My back should aching sting,
And here the blows did fall.
As I was forced to bend,
Down with it, woodman, brave,
Leave not a single knot.
While I my old wounds have—
Inflicted on this spot.

Woodman Chly.

WHEN IT WAS HOT.

"Speakin' of hot weather," said the oldest inhabitant (repeated by the *Bloomingdale Eagle*), "as we unbuckle our belts and lay our planks out on the table, I can't regard it as a very hot day. I've been out to sun all day trying to get some heat into my system, and I tell you gentlemen, in confidence, I'm a bit chilly yet."

"Ever seen it any warmer at this season of the year?" asked the *Eagle* reporter.

"Winters, I sees it in the Spring of 1814 so hot that you'd think this weather was the season. I was building a telegraph line in South America, and what do you think we used for poles?"

"Iron, perhaps."

"Iron! Iron wouldn't stand a minute. Why, the works in my water melted and ran down my leg, and it felt cool, too, 'cause it was liquid. No, sir, iron won't no more use than ice. We couldn't use wood, 'cause it might fire as soon as exposed, so we used salt. We just squirited a stream of salt water straight up through a fixture in the ground. Then we piped the salt water and left a few little columns of salt. Then we made it the right height by cutting it off sufficiently at the bottom."

"But how would you run your wire?"

"Didn't we just pinned it the way we wanted it to go from the top of a hill, and the expansion run it right along from column to column? That's what I call warm weather, that is."

"How fast would the wire seem to go?"

"About eighty miles an hour. We built seven hundred miles of telegraph in one afternoon."

"How did you keep up with it? How could you keep ahead and get your salts columns up fast enough?"

"Well, sir, that was the simplest contrivance ever was. We had two parallel bars of railroad iron and a wagon that just fit the bars. We riveted a cross-piece to the furthest ones, and fastened the wagon to it. Then hands expanded lengthways at the rate of a hundred and fifty miles an hour, and carried the wagon right along at 100 miles an hour. We could head off the wire, get up a pole, and hit it on the wire and knock through the end in no time. I may say, gentlemen, it was hot in that jingle."

"But the men couldn't climb one of these columns?"

"Of course they couldn't—wouldn't hold 'em."

"How did they take the half hitch around the insulators? Did you squirt them with the steam?"

"Not we. You can't squirt a man up that way, beside the water was blillin' hot. We had four thousand tons of quicksilver. And we put a little on the ground under a man, and it'd raise a man to the top of one of them poles at the rate of a thousand miles a second. That's what I call hot. Now, I just shiverin'."

"You must have gauged the quantity of mercury pretty close to stop in the right place?"

"Och! we got it after awhile. The first five men was up five or six hundred miles, and one of them had to wait until the following winter to get home. We went him grub and things by the quickly, and communication until he was fross down, and we paid him double wages while he was gone."

"He's not a wife man?"

"Molt, of course it did."

"Then the line didn't stay up?"

"Deed it did, and that's just what made it stay up. You know heat does. Now when we took hitches around the insulators, we left the wires slack, so when it melted it arched up instead of bellyin' down, and it couldn't fall any more'n a bridge. The funniest thing in the whole business was that when we got through we had a railroad. Them bars of iron made a raschin' good road—for Summer travel."

"Not for Winter, too?"

"Wasn't a nickel for Winter. When cool weather came on they contracted so there wasn't morn' a yard and a half of the road left."

" Didn't the telegraph wire contract, too?"

"Some, but not much. It tightened a good deal, but stayed up just as it was."

" Didn't it break?"

"Couldn't. That wire was melted. You can't break a stream of water, and that wire was liquid."

"Look out, old man," objected the *Eagle* reporter, "if the Winter was cold enough to contract the railroad, it was cold enough to freeze the wire solid."

"Why didn't it do that? Look here, young man, you want to speculate. Now, I got nothing to do with speculations. I do in facts," and the oldest inhabitant buttoned up his ulster, adjusted his plish cap, and walked off in disgrace."

CONNECTICUT'S BLUE LAW.
That our readers may fully understand the nature of the "Blue Laws" of Connecticut, about which so much has been said, we publish them below in full?

The governor and magistrate convened in general assembly are the supreme power under God of this independent dominion:

From the determination of the assembly no appeal shall be made.

The governor is amenable to the voice of the people.

The governor shall not have a single vote in determining any question, except a casting vote, on which the assembly shall be equally divided.

If any person born Quaker, he shall be banished, and not suffered to return but on pain of life.

death.
Priests may be seized by any one without a warrant.
No one to cross a river, but with an authorized ferryman.

No one shall run on the Sabbath day, or walk in his garden, or elsewhere, except reverently and from meeting.

No one shall travel, cook victuals, make beds, sweep house, cut hair or shave on the Sabbath day.

The Sabbath shall begin at sunset on Saturday.

To pick an ear of corn growing in a neighbor's garden shall be deemed theft.

A person accused of trespass in the night shall be judged guilty, unless he clear himself of the charge.

No one shall buy or sell land without permission of the selectmen.

The assembly of the people shall not be dismissed by the governor, but shall dismiss itself.

Conspiracy against the dominion shall be punished with death.

The judge shall determine all controversies without jury.

No one shall be a freeman or give a vote unless he is converted and a member in full communion of one of the churches allowed in state.

No one shall be allowed to be a citizen of the state to bear true allegiance to this dominion, and that Jesus is the only King.

No Quaker or dissenter from the established worship of the dominion, shall be allowed to give a vote for the election of magistrates or any officers.

No food or lodging shall be offered to a Quaker, Admire, or other heretic.

A drunkard shall have a master appointed by the selectmen, who are to Jehovah him from the liberty of buying or selling.

Whoever publishes a lie to the prejudice of his neighbor, shall be set in the stocks or whipped ten stripes.

No minister shall keep a school.

Every recreative person who refuses to pay his tithe, or who fails to pay his tithe, shall be presented by the grand jurors, and the selectmen shall tax the offender \$300 estate.

A debtor in prison, swearing he has no estate, shall be set at odds and made to satisfy.

Whoever sets a fire in the woods, and it burns a house, shall suffer death; and persons suspected of this crime shall be imprisoned without bail.

Whoever brings words or dice into this dominion shall pay a fine of \$5.

No one shall read a common prayerbook, keep Christmas, or set days, eat mince pies, dance, play cards, or play on any instruments of music except the drum, trumpet, or jews-harp.

No gospel minister shall join them in marriage. The magistrate only shall join them in marriage, they may do it with less scandal to Christ's church.

When parents refuse their children convenient marriages, the magistrate shall determine the point.

The selectmen, on finding children ignorant may take them away from their parents and put them in better hands, at the expense of their parents.

PARASOLS, PARASOLS, PARASOLS.

GROWN OR THE BAPTIST CHURCH.—A recent statement of the growth and present condition of the Baptist Church presents the following statistics: In 1782 there were only 56 Baptist churches in America; in 1792 they had increased to 1,000; in 1812 to 2,433, in 1832 to 5,323, in 1852 to more than 9,500; in 1853, without including any of the minor Baptist organizations, to 12,000, with 1,000,000 members, and, if the minor bodies are included, to 1,300,000, and an estimated population of about 7,500,000.

In 1860 the denomination proper possessed 13,470 church edifices and no less than 1,123,148 communicants. According to the census of 1870 the regular Baptist denomination possessed 14,474 church edifices and 12,857 churches, but this is evidently incorrect, so much as the Baptist year book for 1871 shows a return of 17,745 churches. The records of the Government show the following increase in the value of church property during the course of two decades: 1850, value of churches, \$1,020,855; 1860, value of churches, \$19,799,378; 1870, value of churches, \$89,229,221. The foregoing pertains to the regular body. The value of church property for the same periods of other Baptist bodies has been reported as follows: 1850, value of churches, \$153,115; 1860, value of churches, \$1,279,736; 1870, value of churches, \$2,378,977. From 1860 to 1870 the value of church edifices owned by the regular body increased nearly 100 per cent. If this ratio of increase has been kept up during the past decade, the Baptists are the possessors of church property having a value not far from \$80,000,000.

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